

Spring 2013



ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH Global Missions Ministry

Allen Temple Global Ministries Team Hosts Bilateral Forum

By Rev. Theophous H. Reagans

Several years ago, members of our congregation began regularly visiting South Africa and fellowshiping with the W.W. Brown Memorial Baptist Church. Members of that great and historic congregation received us with Christian love and warm African hospitality.

They extended the same hospitality when several of our youth and young adults visited South Africa and the church in 2011. During their visit, our young people also had an opportunity to attend the National Baptist Convention in South Africa and to participate in convention sessions with youth from various churches in South Africa. During one of these sessions, the young people expressed a desire to have an international young people's conference with young people from the throughout the African Diaspora to address common issues faced by young people in both countries and presumably faced by young people globally. A year and a half later, we began making that dream a reality.

After planning on both sides of the Atlantic, Allen Temple youth and young adults convened a bilateral forum on January 5, 2012. One young adult—Qiniso Makopo, traveled from Johannesburg, South Africa to participate in

the forum. Other youth and young adults from South Africa participated by video conferencing.

This bilateral forum provided our young people with an opportunity to develop an organizational structure that they can use in both countries to deal with common challenges—ensuring that youth and young adult concerns are included as part of the national and international agendas; reducing violence; addressing unequal distribution of resources (reducing poverty, feeding hungry children and providing clean water, food and shelter); providing greater access to education; strengthening health systems (providing HIV/AIDS prevention education and access to treatment); identifying and eradicating negative stereotypes; and encouraging cultural, economic, religious and economic exchange.

Our young people were greatly blessed by their visit to South Africa in 2011 and their interaction with young South Africans. They saw a glimpse of their past. The young South Africans were also deeply touched and encouraged; they saw their hope for the future. Both groups realized they had a lot in common and they also realized that they need to collaborate to address

common problems and global challenges. As a consequence of this and other global experiences, we have come to believe that the paradigm for global ministry is shifting. We want to understand and adapt to this changing paradigm. This forum represented a step in that direction. Friendships were rekindled and plans to enhance church work and community service were made. Young people on both sides of the Atlantic have committed to finding creative ways to engage in humanitarian work at home and abroad and to reach and motivate other youth to join them in this work and service.

Our young people are planning another visit to South Africa in 2013. We pray for another successful journey, for deepening friendships, and for God's blessing on our humanitarian efforts. Please pray with us.

"Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, nor has it entered into the hearts of men — the wonderful things God has prepared for they that love Him."

**Rev. Theophous H. Reagans,
Director of Global Ministries
Allen Temple Baptist Church**



Ubumbano

By Dan Reagans

"Just as those of Jewish heritage advocate on behalf of the state of Israel, and those of Irish heritage advocate on behalf of Ireland, and those of Italian heritage advocate on behalf of Italy, so we of African descent must advocate on behalf of African people worldwide." These were the encouraging words spoken from Pastor Emeritus, Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr. which birthed the same spirit and sentiments echoed throughout Allen Temple's Global Ministry Bilateral Youth / Young Adult Forum.

Gathering in the J. Alfred Smith Sr. Fellowship Hall on January 5th, the Global Ministries team hosted an international cultural exchange with the South African youth of W.W. Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa. Connecting with one another via Skype, GM's newest team members met, fellowshiped, and interacted with the W.W. Brown youth on a host topics and problems that plague our youth worldwide.

Also in attendance representing the Brown youth was Qiniso Makopo, who enlightened attendees on everyday urban life and struggles in Johannesburg. Qiniso also

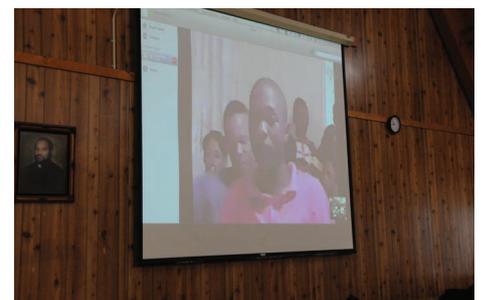
shared a term in his native tongue "Ubumbano" which means connection, and it quickly became a re-occurring theme throughout the forum.

More significant issues affecting and hindering today's youth from becoming tomorrow's leaders erated by Major Williams III, the international Skype conference served as a warm introduction for new youth GM members, and a long overdue reunion for the GM missions team that visited in 2011 (Major Williams, Daniel Mastin, Alexandria Spearman, and Jordan Perteet). Not wasting too much time on introductions, youth teams from both countries got straight to business comprising lists of the most significant issues affecting and hindering today's youth from becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Topics of discussion included police & community relations, drugs, teen pregnancy, and an overall lack of guidance. After much deliberation and debate; education, poverty, and lack of job opportunities were the main three factors both youth teams attributed to the stifling of their generations growth and development. Once determining the common and problematic causes of both the

Bay Area and Johannesburg, the youth were split up into teams and tasked with brainstorming new innovative ideas to be executed that would help tackle the issues at hand.

Ultimately GM newcomers Harrison Harvey, Joshua Bartholomew, Rod Brown, and Michael Sneed concluded that they would use the method of "each one teach one" to help each other and others avoid the pitfalls they're faced with every day. Under the guidance of Christ this will afford them the courage to help influence their peers to be positive influences in the community. Attendees also pledged to be more proactive in 2013 by taking initiative with tutoring, friendship and spreading the gospel. As for furtherance of the global connection, the youth plan to lead a clothing drive to obtain donated clothing to take with them on their mission trip to South



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Alexandria Spearman Gives Opening Address at Forum

I would like to begin by thanking God for the many things He does, for the plans He has for this event and for the furthering of this ministry.

I am speaking to you today on behalf of the group who traveled to South Africa in the summer of 2011. It was an amazing journey for us to have visited the greatest continent on earth and to have such a remarkable, easy-going, and encouraging group of youth and young adults. I appreciate the group of youth we met for their ability to inspire us and their willingness to reach out and receive us in their country and their community.

We connected with each other immediately. Besides the fact that we look alike, we possessed a sense of identification and “relatability”. I believe that it was easy for us to connect because we had all come with our hearts and minds open. We were all eager to hear one another’s stories—past, present and future goals.

Each person we met was very appreciative and content

with what they had because they understood that God provides for our needs and they appreciated what He had given them. The youth were always thankful to God in every way and in everything. Because of their attitudes, we learned some good lessons in humility, faithfulness, self-determination, and joy. We learned that God is everywhere and has a plan and reason for everything.

We want to stay connected because we are family. We want to stay connected because we realize that it is also important that we communicate with youth and young adults who have a different perspective on the world. We want to stay connected because there are many things we can learn from each other.

Let’s strive for the things that bring us peace.

[Alexandria Spearman is a member of Allen Temple Baptist Church’s Global Ministries and a student at Merritt College in Oakland, CA.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/24/13

Bakesale Fundraiser for mission trip
Allen Temple Baptist Church;

4/24/13

Alvin Ailey Dance Performance
Zellerbach Hall;

6/23/2013

Mission Trip to South Africa;

6/28/2013

Bilateral Youth/Young Adult Forum
Soweto, South Africa;

7/2/2013

National Baptist Convention
Durban, South Africa



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Africa that is planned for June 2013. They will give the donated clothing to children and youth

who need clothes living in the community surrounding the church in Soweto. They also plan to put together a pictorial history of the civil rights movement to present to the young people at the W.W. Brown Baptist Church to enhance the cultural exchange "Unbumbano" between the two congregations. We look forward with much anticipation to our next mission trip and another opportunity to bear the burdens of others, to work for the good

of all, especially those in the family of faith. Galatians 6:2, 10.

The participants ended their day with a prayer led by a supporting young adult, Minister Will Brown.

[Dan is a young adult who traveled with the youth to South Africa as a chaperone in 2011. A graduate of the State University of New York, he currently works as a staff writer for BET.]

Creating a New Reality

By Qiniso Makopo

My trip to Oakland was one that was completely out of this world, the reason was that this journey would be my first out of my home country South Africa – a place I call a home that is filled with warmth and extraordinary love. It was a feeling that was nerve wracking, anxious, and butterflies filled my round Zulu belly all the way to my throat. But, I was certain I was going to a place that would be just as warm as home – after all I was going to visit long lost distant cousins that boast the very same spirit of Ubuntu (humanity) and Godliness.

We are cut from the same cloth, birthed by the same soil, nourished by the same rains, kissed by the same sun and we most certainly praise and are blessed by the same God. We are Africans! We have a connection that runs deep in our veins; hearts that jam the same beat and pump similar passions.

It is this sameness that made my arrival in Oakland comforting and a little less nerve wracking. Though geographically far removed from my home and reality, I was not far from a sincere



kind of love that yearns a future so vivid for me and

my young brothers and sisters it's almost unimaginable. Nor was I far from the genuine security and wisdom that flows so fluently from the minds of my elders.

I found it all in Oakland. What is most comforting is the fact that the people in South Africa, the people in other parts of Africa, and Africans in the United States are never alone because we have each other. This thought should never be absent from our consciousness.

The Youth Forum provided more insights. I learned that we also share similar social challenges. These include poor educational achievement and health care

issues. Lack of education informs the decisions we make and influences the manner and pace in which we develop as youth and as a people. Alongside youth and young adults from my new home, Oakland, we discovered that we are both affected by poor education and poor health, which hinders our development as professionals, academics and thought leaders.

We discovered that the reasons for the lack of education and poor health may differ in our respective countries, but there are common factors that exist that create and exacerbate these problems.

Following our insights, we briefly investigated solutions to reverse and curb the effect

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by Patrick Colin

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ! I am grateful to have an opportunity to interact with my American family once again. It is always a pleasure.

Being a young Christian is not easy. We face challenges that test our faith every second of every day. However, the mere thought of knowing that there are other young people who are having the same experiences on the other side of the world and are praying for us to hang in there, makes it a whole lot better. The thought that we have Malume (Rev. Theo), who does not expect any form of mediocrity, gives us even more reason to work hard. The confidence and the unconditional love that he has for us is encouraging us.

The relationship that we have with the young people

of Allen Temple is one that we value a lot and the bond that we share is one that will continue for generations. We are praying that the ties that bind us will go far beyond the walls of W.W. Brown and Allen Temple.

The youth bilateral forum session that we recently had via Skype was nothing short of amazing.

It rekindled our spirits and reminded us that we are working together towards the same goals. It was very exciting to see everyone again. It is very important that we maintain the relationships that Malume and the youth have helped us to forge. We must remain

always united.

We are requesting Allen Temple to pray with us that our attempts to strengthen our relationship and fellowship are successful. We know that the God that we serve is a good God and He will honor our requests.

Yours in Christ

God bless,

Patrick

[Patrick Colin is a member of W.W. Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Soweto, South Africa. He is a third year student at the University of Johannesburg where he majors in economics.]

Youth Forum Rekindles Spirit



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of these decayers. Loads more needs to be done in this regard, but thankfully the journey has begun and it is very exciting for all parties involved.

My appreciation for the Bilateral Youth/Young Adult Forum runs deep. This

initiative by the Allen Temple Baptist Church and partners in Africa is dear to me and, in my view, should be guarded by our elders and supported by all of our youth and young adults.

For me, this is a step closer to a united, connected and sustainable people. Together we have the potential and the opportunity to actively

participate in creating a new reality that is crafted by us, for us. Gone will be the days where what is good for us as a people is decided by others. The forum is not the complete answer yet, but it is a definite step to an influential movement that will be a force to be reckoned with.

As the saying goes, always save the best for last. My greatest respect and love goes out to ATBC for warmly accepting me into their world and reminding me as an African that we have family across the ocean. I certainly hope that I was able to convey that same feeling kinship to my family in America.

[Qiniso Makopo lives in Soweto, South Africa. He is a graduate of University of Witwatersrand in South Africa and currently works in advertising.]





Sunday School Graduation

by Given Louw

On Sunday the 20th January 2013 we hosted our annual Sunday school graduation day in the awarding of 40 Sunday school kids with attendance certificates for participation in Sunday school, performance projects, spiritual growth, academic excellence, and participation in church activities. The certificates were handed over by Tiny Seboko (advocate) and Banele Nhlengethwa (former student at Wits University now serving as an IT teacher at a suburban High School).

The Kids were dressed in their new coats with the W.W. Brown National Baptist Church emblem on the top left hand side (tailor made by our church elders in the

choir). Each student wore a black bow tie, white school shirt, any color blue jeans and any color sneakers for flexibility during the performance. A young violinist played the violin during the songs that were sang by the Sunday school.

Lastly, the Sunday school president, Given Louw, delivered a speech based on the spiritual growth and academic growth. Mr. Louw asked the older youth/young adults to help the children by serving as good role models and he asked that they assist him in obtaining more sponsorships for school uniforms and stationary so that the children could all return to school next term.

The Church Pastor, Rev. Pudule Snr., delivered a vote if thanks the parents, the Sunday school kids and the Sunday school teachers for a job well done.

Regards,
Given Louw

[Given Louw is a member of W.W. Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Soweto South Africa, president of the Sunday school, and a university student majoring in architecture.]

The Global Ministry promotes Allen Temple Baptist Church's awareness of and involvement with issues that concern people globally, and especially Africans and people of African descent. The Ministry provides opportunities for service and education, and for cultural, religious, economic, and political exchange.

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